

Rethinking Queenship in the Eighteenth Century (Los Angeles, 3–10 August 2003)

Michael E. Yonan

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals for papers are sought for a panel to take place at the Eleventh International Congress on the Enlightenment/joint conference with the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 3-10 August 2003.

Session title: "Beyond Marie-Antoinette: Rethinking Queenship in the Eighteenth Century."

Wife, mother, figurehead, regent, trendsetter, conduit, prop: the eighteenth-century queen filled diverse and sometimes contradictory roles. Scholars have identified fundamental changes to the concept of monarchy that emerged in the decades before the French Revolution. Desacralization combined with new, enlightened expectations of monarchical activity to replace a divinely sanctioned absolutist authority with a paternalistic model emphasizing proper judgment and social responsibility. This session seeks to examine how these changes specifically affected female monarchs. Moving beyond Marie-Antoinette, the well-studied last Queen of France, we shall examine other, less well-known figures whose experiences may have been more typical of eighteenth-century queens. Possible questions for investigation include: How did eighteenth-century female rulers respond to new social pressures, new paradigms for their behavior, and new responsibilities? How was queenship defined? How did queens negotiate the power structures they inherited? What mythological or allegorical ideals did they evoke? How did new attitudes toward queenship affect representational practices? What similarities and differences existed among queens across Europe? The session chair invites papers from a multitude of disciplines, including but not limited to literature, history, art and architectural history, sociology, music, anthropology, and theater studies. The ultimate goal will be to discuss eighteenth-century queenship from multiple angles and to enlarge our understanding of the possibilities available to eighteenth-century female monarchs.

Proposals, accompanied by telephone number, fax number, and email

information, are due by 15 September 2002 to:

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Electronic submissions are welcome.

For more information on the conference, please see www.ISECS.ucla.edu/

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